

EYES ONLY

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File

CHAL-~~0004~~ 0537
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23 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

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SUBJECT : Discussion with [] 14 January 1959
on Health and Morale at Detachment []

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25X1A 1. In the course of a lengthy discussion with [] the following significant subjects were covered:

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[]

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b. [] are older, their families have grown, and they are no longer the "tigers" they were at the inception of the program. One or two have indicated that they would get out if they gracefully could. Reasons hinge upon the fact that initially it was believed that the program would last at most a year and a half. Three years have elapsed and improvement in intercept capability is assumed.

c. The pilots should be brought up to date on counter measures we are taking, such as increased altitude, developing a break-lock system, etc.

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2. As a result of the above, and the favorable report from the recent intercept tests, I recommended, and you approved, that [] armed with the latest information and evaluation, proceed to [] fully brief Col. Beerli, after which a major sales pitch would be made to all assembled pilots, the main purpose being to reassure them and whip up an aggressive spirit. Col. Beerli would then talk privately to the []

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[] Since attitude and spirit of combat crews are the most vital keys to successful missions, I believe this action will be timely and effective.

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3. I believe that Col. Beerli's leadership continued to be outstanding but feel that we can be of major assistance to him through [] visit. As you know, pilots talk to flight surgeons and do not talk to commanders with regard to mental problems. From what I gather, Col. Beerli is still living on nervous energy and badly needs rest and relaxation. Unfortunately I see no way for him to get same until much later.

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4. In selecting personnel for assignment to [] believes single men are much to be preferred; further that we have not been doing a good job in checking medical histories of contract and military personnel selected for assignment [] Medical facilities and treatment are marginal and therefore each individual must be physically and psychologically sound prior to selection for

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duty [] I have taken steps with [] to ensure heavier emphasis on this aspect.

WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel, USAF
DD-DPD-DD/P

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